



NEWSLETTER



8 File Papers to Seek Election



Eight members have submitted completed applications to be candidates for four seats on the LFPOA Board of Directors as of the Dec. 31 deadline.

Three seats are full, three-year terms and one is for two years, completing a vacated term. There are seven directors in all.

The top three vote-getters will win three-year terms. The candidate placing fourth will serve for two years.

Over the next month, General Manager Jeff Arrant will work with the Elections Committee to assure that all potential candidates meet the qualifications outlined in the LFPOA bylaws.

The committee is composed of three directors: Chair Charlotte Graham, Mathew Laws III and Mallory Tapley. None is up for election in this cycle.

All potential candidates have to pass a background check by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and remain in good standing throughout their candidacy.

Once the list of qualified candidates is set by the Elections Committee, ballots containing the candidates' names will be created.

Members can expect to receive ballots during the third week of February. One ballot is issued for each lot owned.

The election outcome is based on member votes only. No lots owned by the association or the affiliated Lake Forest Preservation nonprofit are used in the voting.

Ballots may be mailed, dropped off at the LFPOA office at 1 Golf Terrace, or deposited at the annual meeting on March 26 no later than 10 minutes after the meeting has been adjourned.

**A popular column returns.
See Why I Moved to Lake Forest, page 11**

Inside this Edition

Your Guide to the New Dues Payment System

Q: Does my account number remain the same?

A: No. Your member number now is your account number. The number that used to be on the coupon books is no longer valid.

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JAN. SOUP SPECIALS

E

JAN. 2 TO 4

BEEF AND VEGETABLE SOUP OR BROCCOLI AND
CHEESE SOUP

JAN. 9 TO 11

CHICKEN AND DUMPLING SOUP OR MINESTRONE

JAN. 16 TO 18

LOBSTER BISQUE OR CHICKEN AND WILD RICE SOUP

JAN. 23 TO 25

SHRIMP AND CORN CHOWDER OR LOADED
POTATO SOUP

Ramsey Email Probe Update

Here are two statements that were read at the Dec. 18, 2025, LFPOA board meeting concerning the investigation into improper use of member emails by former president Byrian Ramsey.

The first statement outlines the board's findings and actions.

The second statement, from the LFPOA business systems consultant, discusses how much information Ramsey may have accessed.

The board is looking into hiring an outside IT expert to make sure nothing is missed in the investigation.

LFPOA President Matt Laws' Statement

The Lake Forest Property Owners Association has been investigating issues arising out of complaints from members about actions of the prior Board member and President, Byrian Ramsey.



LFPOA president
Matt Laws

The Board has determined that a list of members and their email addresses obtained from Lake Forest while serving on the Board was used by Byrian Ramsey to promote his political campaign and his personal business. This activity was not authorized nor approved by the Board of Directors. He did not have permission to use the mailing list.

The Board has determined that this use of the members list for personal benefit is a violation of the rules under which the Association operates. The Board of Directors has taken disciplinary action against Ramsey.

Laws cont'd

Ramsey has been formally removed from the Board of Directors. The removal is a procedural step that the Board determined was necessary. The removal means the former president is not eligible to run for the Board, nor serve on any committees of the Board, for three years.

The Board also issued a suspension of Ramsey's Association member privileges as well.

We would like to address the concerns some members of Lake Forest have expressed about whether this former Board member had access to sensitive personal information of any Lake Forest members. We are still investigating, but the information we have at this time is that there was no sensitive personal information stored in the data to which Ramsey may have had access.

Our information technology provider, Business Information Solutions, or BIS, is continuing its investigation. At this point, BIS has issued a statement that I will read to you in a minute.

The Board is looking into hiring an independent, third-party I.T. expert to investigate to make sure nothing is missed. We expect reports from both experts sometime after the first of the year. It takes time to do this work in a way that will instill confidence.

Now I will read the statement from Phillip Long with BIS.

Business Systems Consultant's Letter

Dec. 16. 2025

Subject: Update on Data Review for Lake Forest

BIS has proudly supported Lake Forest POA with IT services for nearly 15 years, and we deeply value the strong working relationship we share.

As requested, we have reviewed the type of data maintained on the server to determine whether any sensitive personal information is stored. The answer is no—there is no sensitive personal information on the server.

All sensitive data is securely stored in a PCI-compliant, encrypted offsite environment that is not accessible to IT support personnel or Lake Forest POA employees.

At BIS, we take data protection and security breaches very seriously. Both my team and I are committed to continuing education to stay ahead of the ever-changing cybersecurity landscape.

I personally hold the CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) and Certified Ethical Hacker credentials, underscoring our dedication to best practices in security and compliance.

We will continue our investigation and provide additional updates as needed. At this point, we wanted to reassure the Board and Lake Forest members regarding the nature of the data stored.

We also look forward to collaborating with the independent IT expert retained by the Board to ensure a thorough and transparent assessment.

Best Regards,
Phillip Long
CEO Business Information Solutions

Daphne's Bayfront Park, Boardwalk Plan Could Be a Boon to a Lake Forest Property

Daphne's Bayfront Park amphitheater and boardwalk project has the potential to enhance the value of property along the bay owned by the Lake Forest Property Owners Association.

The city broke ground for the \$15 million amphitheater on Oct. 30 and expects to complete the project by spring 2027.

Part of the long-term plan includes a boardwalk that runs north about 2,500 feet along D'Olive Bay from the park to The Waterfront restaurant, which is owned by the LFPOA and leased to restaurateur Pete Blohme.

"The amphitheater project and the boardwalk are the kinds of strategic moves that leverage Daphne's bayfront locations to benefit residents and tourists, and encourage a sense of community," says Mayor Robin LeJeune.

"We see concerts, graduation ceremonies, theater productions – even weddings – at this prime waterfront setting," the mayor says.

District 3 Councilman Joel Coleman, who represents a large part of Lake Forest on the western side, was the primary driver of the project among the current council.

"I shouldn't get the credit, though," says Coleman. "This administration may have brought it home, but the credit for the vision goes back 20 years or so to people like [historian] Al Guarisco, [real estate agent] Starke Irvine and [Daphne Utilities Board Chair] Selena Vaughn."

Coleman, a former design engineer, says he had two thoughts at the groundbreaking: "The first was, 'We're actually going to build this thing'; the second was panic, 'What haven't I thought of.' "

The city is funding the amphitheater with \$7.8 million from the city lodging tax and its reserve fund, and \$7.2 million from the levy on gas and oil leases along the Gulf Coast shared by four states.

Daphne's Bayfront Park amphitheater and boardwalk project has the potential to enhance the value of property along the bay owned by the Lake Forest Property Owners Association.



Park cont'd

The city broke ground for the \$15 million amphitheater on Oct. 30 and expects to complete the project by spring 2027.

In addition to the 4,400-square-foot stage, the Bayfront project will include a splash pad for children, a 1,200 square-foot building for rest rooms and a 25x25-foot viewing deck on the bay side of the building.

Included in the initial plan is the first section of boardwalk, which will connect a parking lot on the far northwest end of the Magnolia Place – the Publix shopping center – to Bayfront Park.

The city bought the Thomas Hospital Medical Center building at the back of the shopping center in 2023 and has begun converting the space to Sports and Recreation Department use.

Once the boardwalk connection is made to the shopping center, Daphne can start to look north along the bay toward The Waterfront.

It has an \$800,000 grant from Innovate Alabama, “which will get us about half-way on the boardwalk project,” says Troy Strunk, city development executive director.

He says it is difficult to estimate the cost of the other half because of topographical challenges.

Ultimately, the boardwalk could be extended to connect Bayfront Park to the city’s Gator Boardwalk park at U.S.98 and I-10.



Members Must Update Dues Payment Information

A new dues payment system is in effect, and it requires most members to provide new information because the association has changed banks.

Here are some common questions:

Q: Can I use the Centennial Bank my100epay.com?

A: No. The Centennial account is going away. Login to the [Lake Forest Member Portal](#). At the top of the page, below the Lake Forest logo and next to the MEMBER CENTRAL tab, you will see a link that reads CLICK HERE TO ACCESS STATEMENTS AND PAY YOUR BILL. Click on that link and it will take you to the page to enter your payment information.

Q: Can I still pay by check or cash without a charge?

A: Yes. There is no charge for paying by cash or check in person or by mail.

Q: Can I still use the bill pay option from my personal bank?

A: Yes. You will need to update the billing address with your bank to 1 Golf Terrace Daphne, AL 36526. Please make sure your member number is on the check.

Q: Is there a fee for the ACH payment method?

A: There is no fee.

Q: Will I still get a monthly coupon book?

A: No. There are no coupon books.

Q: Does my account number remain the same?

A: No. Your member number now is your account number. The number that used to be on the coupon books is no longer valid.

Q: Can I pay my dues by automatic draft from my bank account?

A: You can. Login to the [Lake Forest Member Portal](#). At the top of the page, below the Lake Forest logo and next to the MEMBER CENTRAL tab, you will see a link that reads CLICK HERE TO ACCESS STATEMENTS AND PAY YOUR BILL. Click on that link and it will take you to the page to enter your payment information.

Dues cont'd

Q: Can I pay by credit card at the office?

A: You can, but there is a 3.5 percent fee.

Q: Can I pay by debit card at the office?

A: Unfortunately, we are unable to take debit cards at this time.

Q: Can I pay after office hours?

A: Of course, you can pay digitally at any time. You also can drop off a check in the secure mailbox near the flagpole opposite the office entrance. (We don't recommend leaving cash in the mailbox.)

Q: Can I still send my payments to a post office box?

A: Yes. The Daphne post office box is still a valid option.

Q: Will I get monthly statements?

A: Yes.

Q: If I use autopay, when will the payments be deducted from my account?

A: Generally, the deduction will occur between the 5th and the 8th of the month.

Q: What is the new bank?

A: The new bank is PNC. The move will save the association about \$10,000 per year in fees, mostly associated with the coupon book printing and mailing.

Q: What happens if I do nothing?

A: There is a danger your account could become past due and penalties and fees could be applied.

2025 Holiday Lights Contest Winners



FIRST PLACE - 186 RIDGEWOOD DR



SECOND PLACE
160 RIDGEWOOD DR



THIRD PLACE
114 LAWSON RD



Why I Moved to Lake Forest

The Third Time Around

By Francesca Luthje

In July 2017, I had the privilege of writing an article for the Lake Forest newspaper.

Without a doubt, I was ecstatic when Tomasina Werner, editor for the paper, was looking for new articles on the topic "Why I Moved to Lake Forest" for the column.

I was just as thrilled when the story was published and the hard copies had finally arrived in my mailbox.

In the article, I shared how my parents, younger sister, and I moved to Daphne from fast-paced Miami in 1992, right after I had graduated from high school.

Shortly after the move, I started college, found my first job, and had finally bought my own first car, which I drove everywhere.

My bedroom faced the carport and had its own private entrance. Yes, I was 18 years old, and I felt like I was on top of the world!

After a few years, my family decided to move back to Miami, as my mom despaired at the lack of Latin products and goods in the area as well as the scarcity of a Hispanic community in South Alabama at the time.

But we weren't done with Daphne or Lake Forest.

After 20 years in Miami, I wanted a change of scenery and I knew where I wanted to be.

In 2015, I decided to come back to Daphne with my 11-year-old son, Dominic, and our puppy, Perlita, to pick up where I had left off.



Why I moved to Lake Forest

Submitted by: Tomasina Werner
tomasinawerner@gmail.com
Phone: 251-626-0227

See below what brought Francesca Luthje to Lake Forest. We would like to hear your story. Please contact me if you would like to share it with us.

The Second Time Around

By: Francesca Luthje

It was summer of 1992 when my parents, my younger sister and I moved to Daphne from Florida. The house in Lake Forest we were planning to buy somehow the seller decided not to sell, so we had no choice but to move quickly into a nearby apartment. About three months later, another house became available on Ridgewood Drive and we moved in, but my parents weren't too excited about it. I was particularly excited because my room had its own private entrance that lead into the carport. It was a glass sliding door!

I was only 18 years old, had my own car and going to college, so that was quite a big deal! I loved driving along the winding streets and hills, getting lost in the community while enjoying the blasting wind on my face. Almost three years passed and my parents decided to sell the house and move back to Florida. I wasn't too thrilled about the move, but went along with it and moved with them.

For many years, I wanted to come back to Daphne, but it always seemed like a faraway thought. The idea of coming back lingered in my mind over time. Twenty one years later, when my son was almost eleven, was when I decided to move back with the idea to purchase a house in Lake Forest. During our first year living in Daphne, we searched and searched for houses, but there was always an issue with all of the houses I had fallen for. I had finally given up on the search and decided to just continue renting for another year when a nice home came along. My realtor called me and informed me that one of the houses he had shown me was still available and he literally said, "It's a done deal. This is the one." At first, I was skeptical and actually had to see it on paper to believe it. When the whole process ended and we finally moved into our lovely Lake Forest home, May of 2016, it was a dream come true!

We are enjoying all the amenities our community offers, such as the pools, the tennis courts, the marina for fishing and even golfing since we have the golf course right in our backyard. I enjoy watching my son play in our backyard with his friends as I work in my garden. Some days I just kick back and relax while watching the sunset hide behind the gorgeous foliage and I think to myself, "what if I would have stayed in Lake Forest all these years."

The story that kicked off the story

Why cont'd

Moving back to Lake Forest and building our lives here has been extremely rewarding over the years.

Watching my son transition into a musically talented young man has been quite a blessing.

Enjoying every transition of our changing lives through every season, from hosting visiting relatives and friends, to holiday gatherings, to family reunions, to concerts to graduations - the memories are just countless.

Years later, my younger sister, who's all grown up now, moved from Florida to Lake Forest with her three children, ready to purchase her first home and also construct some long lasting memories of her own.

As for our mother, she couldn't resist, so she followed our lead and got herself a property in the area.

Dominic graduated high school with honors in 2022 and moved away to pursue a career in music and linguistics, studying at the University of Kentucky with much success.

After I became an empty-nester, other unexpected changes took place in my personal life, so I rented out my home.

During a spring evening in 2025, after being away from Lake Forest for two years, I moved back into my home.

While unpacking an old box, I found a few hard copies of "The Lake Forester" newspaper, which made me think about writing this story after moving back to Lake Forest for the third time.

So, I ask myself, "Will this be the last?"



Franchesca with her son, Dominic



19th Hole
GRILL 

MARDI *Gras*

TRUNK OR TREAT

FEB. 16 10 AM TO 12 PM

Hot Dogs, Cotton Candy,
Throws and Decorations



Call the LFPOA office
if you want to
volunteer and
decorate your car

LFPOA Members Only

Your Generosity is Overwhelming

Lake Forest residents donated enough gifts to fill five Toys-4-Tots boxes. That's about 45 cubic feet of gifts!

The food collection, which ran mostly parallel to the toy drive, brought in 210 pounds of food, enough to provide 175 meals for clients of Prodisee Pantry in Spanish Fort.



December Bingo Winners



Game 1, Misty
and son, Colton



Game 2, Gaynell



Game 3, John



Game 4, Matt



Game 5, Misty



Game 6, Gil



Drawing Winner
Johnathon



Drawing Winner
John



Drawing Winner
Harley

Catch the next
Burgers and Bingo
night Jan 21.

2ND ANNIVERSARY **BURGERS AND**

B I N G O

JAN. 21

Great Prizes!!

Burger Special 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BINGO 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bingo Cards are for LFPOA Members Only

Cookies with Claus

pics



The Mystery of the Missing Hay Bale

Mariah Nelson bought eight bales of hay for children to sit on in the Saraland parade the Saturday before Christmas. She had seven when she got to Saraland.

On the Monday after the parade, Mariah, who lives on Brentwood Drive, no longer needed the hay and posted a photo on social media saying she was giving away the seven bales.

That prompted a reply from Debby Franco, who lives on Ridgewood Drive: “Plus one that fell off the truck and landed in my front yard!”

Mystery solved.

“I am so sorry about that,” wrote back Mariah, who with her husband J.J. operates Nelson’s Barnyard Buffet in Saraland. “We couldn’t figure out why we only had seven at the parade.”



Women's Club News

By Ali Flowers

The Women's Club met on Thursday, December 18. There was no business, pure party! We had an ugly Christmas sweater contest, but none of the sweaters were actually ugly. Our winners were given Super Bowl-type rings. They're great fun!. These prizes were awarded to Renée, Kathy, and Mary L. Of course, we also played Dirty Santa.



We were treated to a taco bar from the 19th Hole. This is such a great meal there. Flan, cupcakes, and mini cheesecakes were served for dessert.

Make sure to join us on January 15th for our next meeting - more business, less party. We have a great speaker coming to help us get our futures organized.



Garden Club Outing Planned

By Jan Spiccianni

The end of the year is always a fun time for the Lake Forest Garden Club.

This month, apart from our horticulture awards, we had an ugly sweater contest. Contestants paraded around the room to show off their homemade designs and other frivolous Christmas attire.

Our top three winners received prize rings.

On Jan. 8, the club will have a field trip to the Weeks Bay Visitors Center, followed by lunch at the Eastern Shore Cafe.

For more information, contact Jane Spiccianni at 251-423-0700.



Christmas sweater contest winners (left to right) Renee Burns, Kathy Schuman and Debbie Argiro display their prize rings.



The Garden Club gets ready to do its Dirty Santa.

Golf Pro's Corner

By Todd Bailey

The golf family wants to wish a Happy new year to all of you, and we hope 2026 will be better than ever! While December carried a few cold and rainy days our way, it seems like Christmas week of 2025 made up for the shortage in rounds for the month. Now, as we ring in the new year and put a finishing touch on college football season, the stage is set to continue our vision of making Lake Forest golf course the best it can be.

Many of you have complimented on our tree removal projects late in the year, and January will be a great time for more canopy removal as well as the resodding of those areas impacted. We will also finish up the pond on the 17th hole as well as continue our improvements to the practice area. I would like to give a shout out to Jake, and his team for all of the continuous hard work that has gone in to obtaining the course conditions we currently enjoy. Golf revenues were up from the previous year, and 2026 is shaping up to be an even bigger success.

We will be hosting a couple of outside events this month, with the PINSEEKERS on Monday, January the 19th and the APEX JUNIOR GOLF ORGANIZATION will be visiting us on Sunday, January the 11th. If you're interested in signing up your child for the event, or if you have any questions, contact Jammie@ajgo.org. It should be a great event to showcase our course for the boys and girls who may be the next stars of our game. Of course we also will be running our junior camps when school takes its summer break as well. Thank you all for your continued support!

Please be aware of the golfers on the course and our hours of operation. Hours of operation our currently 7a.m. to 5p.m. Tuesday through Sunday where there should not be any walking, jogging, or pets on the course during these hours. This is for your safety!

Tennis News

By Michael Albrecht



Learn to Play Tennis in Just 5 Weeks

Learn to play tennis in 2026!! Now is your chance. Sign up for the Lake Forest 2026 Ladies Beginner Tennis Program. The program runs for 5 weeks. Classes are February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. All classes are from 10 am to 11 am.



L to R. Joanna Bass, Ashley Howard, Jennifer Hammond and Jennifer Walsh playing in a LF vs. LF league match.

Let this be the year you pick up a new sport!! Classes are taught from the ground up, like you never played tennis before. You will be ready for match play after the weeks. Dates of classes are Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. All classes are from 10 AM to 11 AM.



Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	29.	30.	31. Burger Special Night 4 to 8 pm	1. New Years Day Lunch Special 10 am to 2 pm Garden Club 10am	2. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	3. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole
4. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	5.	6.	7. Burger Special Night 4 to 8 pm	8.	9. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	10. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole
11. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	12.	13.	14. Burgers and Bingo 4 -8:30pm	15. Womens Club 10am Work Session 6 pm	16. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	17. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole
18. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	19.	20	21. BINGO! Burger Special Night 4 to 8 pm	22. Stated meeting 6 pm	23. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	24. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole
25. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	26.	27.	28. Burger Special Night 4 to 8 pm	29.	30. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole	31. Soup Specials at 19 th Hole
Soup Specials at 19 th Hole				251-626-0788 www.lakeforestdaphne.com		

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Stay up to date with all the board of directors information. Here are the Jan. dates.

Work Session Jan. 15, 6 PM
Stated Meeting Jan 22, 6 PM



A member asks:

Q: Can I play nine holes of golf, instead of 18?



A: Yes, with prior arrangement. Because of the course layout, there is not a linear nine-hole option. Hole 9 does not play back to the clubhouse, as it does in most course layouts. All nine-hole rounds are played on holes 1-3 and 13-18. This can affect pace of play when the person or group playing nine moves from 3 to 13. To maintain a reasonable pace on the course, anyone interested in playing nine holes will need to call the pro shop to confirm the availability of tee times. (251) 626-9324.

Lake Forest Life

If you have news, we want to share it with your neighbors. Important wedding anniversaries, milestone birthdays, births, weddings, graduations or other key points in life – drop us a line. Photos are encouraged. Please include contact information.

editor@lakeforestdaphne.com



**TO GO
ORDERS**
251-626-4520



www.LakeForestDaphne.com



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ENTREES

Served with your choice of 1 side

Cheeseburger \$7.00

Juicy beef patty served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickles
Add Bacon \$1.50

Double Cheeseburger \$9.50

2 juicy beef patties served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickles
Add Bacon \$1.50

2 Hotdogs \$5.00

Classic hot dogs on a bun, topped with your choice of condiments

Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$8.00

Grilled chicken breast served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles

Fried Chicken Sandwich \$8.00

Fried chicken breast served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles

BLT Sandwich \$6.00

Juicy tomatoes, lettuce and bacon served on sandwich bread

Ham and Cheese Sandwich \$6.00

Sliced ham and melted cheese served on sandwich bread

Grilled Cheese Sandwich \$5.00

A comforting classic - melted cheese between two slices of grilled bread

Chicken Tenders \$7.00

Crispy chicken tenders served with your choice of ranch, BBQ, or honey mustard

Breakfast

Sausage Biscuit \$2.00

Breakfast Sandwich \$6.00

Sides

French Fries \$3.00

Sweet Potato Fries \$3.00

Onion Rings \$4.00

*Consuming raw or undercooked meats or seafood may pose an increased risk of foodborne illness.

1 Golf Terrace, Daphne AL, 36526

Roof Work is Under Way

The shingle portion of the roof work – that part on the modernistic wing facing the putting green – was completed in mid-December. Work on the flat roof, which is the larger part of the project, has been delayed by rain repeatedly. The roof needs at least five dry days. General Manager Jeff Arrant says the roofing crews are poised to begin at the start of the year, weather permitting. Work will take about 12 days. Arrant says the project is tracking within the \$117,000 budget.

